

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 00839 011303Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-02 EB-08 IGA-02 /082 W
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O R 011116Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0538

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0839

FOR AMBASSADOR DICKMAN
SECSTATE PASS AID/NEAR EAST

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: EAID, OEXC, SCUL, YE, TC, US
SUBJ: TRIANGULAR COOPERATION: SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YEMEN

BEGIN SUMMARY: YARG GIVES GO-AHEAD ON SCHOLARSHIPS
PROGRAM WITH ABU DHABI. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING LUNCH WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION
ABD AL-KARIM AL-IRYANI ON FEBRUARY 28, WE DISCUSSED
THE NEED FOR INCREASED SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE
FOR YEMEN. I RAISED WITH AL-IRYANI THE POSSIBILITY
OF INVOLVING THE UAE IN A TRIANGULAR SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM FOR YEMEN WITH THE UAE PROVIDING FUNDS
AND THE US PROVIDING PLACEMENT AND COUNSELLING
SERVICE. I MENTIONED TO HIM THAT I HAVE ALREADY
DISCUSSED THIS INFORMALLY WITH YOU DURING OUR
RECENT MEETINGS IN RIYADH AND THAT YOU EXPRESSED
YOUR READINESS TO HELP BACKSTOP ANY YEMENI
APPROACH TO UAE. IN THIS REGARD, I ALSO
INFORMED AL-IRYANI THAT MINISTER OF STATE
AHMAD ABDU SAID TOLD ME ON FEBRUARY 27 THAT HE
RAISED THE SAME ISSUE WITH YOU DURING HIS VISIT
TO ABU DHABI AND THAT SAID TOLD YOU THE YEMEN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SANA 00839 011303Z

GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN SUCH A JOINT
APPROACH TO THE UAE. SAID ALSO TOLD ME
THAT HE WOULD BE ADVISING AL-IRYANI TO MOVE FOR-
WARD QUICKLY ON THE APPROACH PRIOR TO THE VISIT
OF SHEIKH ZAYID IBN SULTAN AL-NUHAYAN IN MID-MARCH.

2. AL-IRYANI WAS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE

POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT UAE-US SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE TELEPHONING HIS AMBASSADOR IN ABU DHABI TODAY (MARCH 1) TO TRY TO ENGENDER INTEREST IN SUCH A PROGRAM PRIOR TO THE SHEIKH'S VISIT, SO THAT THE SHEIKH MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM DURING HIS VISIT. AL-IRYANI ALSO SAID HE WOULD ADVISE HIS AMBASSADOR TO CONTACT YOU AND COORDINATE WITH YOU SO THAT YOU COULD SUPPORT THE AMBASSADOR IN HIS APPROACH TO THE YAE. HE AGREED, THAT HIS AMBASSADOR SHOULD, OF COURSE, MAKE THE INITIAL APPROACH, TO THE UAE BUT HOPED YOU WOULD FOLLOW UP. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS WILL GIVE YOU MORE DETAILS ABOUT THINKING HERE THAN QUBATI LIKELY TO HAVE AND SUGGEST YOU SHARE THEM WITH HIM.

3. COSTS OF THE PROGRAM HAVE BEEN COMPUTED IN A GENERAL SENSE. WE ARE SEEKING 50 NEW STUDENTS A YEAR TO START UNDERGRADUATE WORK IN THE U.S. ASSUMING TWO ROUND TRIPS US-YAR IN FIVE YEARS YEMENI STUDENTS WILL NEED FOR GRADUCATION, AS A B.A. OR B.S., EACH GROUP OF FIFTY WOULD COST \$3 MILLION. IRYANI HAS TALKED ABOUT RUNNING THE PROGRAM FOR FIVE YEARS, AT FIRST; HENCE THE INITIAL COMMITMENT OF THE EMIRATES WOULD BE \$15 MILLION SPREAD FROM THE FALL OF 1977 TO SUMMER OF 1986 (I.E. AT GRADUATION OF LAST GROUP TO START). WHILE FIGURES ABOVE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANA 00839 011303Z

ROUGH, SOME ALLOWANCE HAS BEEN INCLUDED FOR INFLATION.

4. FIGURES INCLUDE ROOM AND BOARD, TUITION, FEES, MAINTENANCE, AS BASED ON AID AVERAGES. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE FIGURES ARE NOT RPT NOT AS GENEROUS AS AMOUNTS MADE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS FROM EMIRATES OR SAUDI ARABIA, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO LIVING ALLOWANCES, BUT YARG OFFICIALS INSIST THEY DO NOT RPT NOT WANT EXTRAVAGANT ALLOWANCES FOR YEMENI STUDENTS.

5. DECISION TO RENEW PROGRAM AFTER FIVE YEARS COULD BE BASED ON REVIEW ITS SUCCESS, NEED OF YEMEN AT THAT TIME FOR GRADUATES, ABILITY YEMEN TO SATISFY ITS NEEDS FOR GRADUATES FROM UNIVERSITY OF SANA OR OTHER ARAB WORLD SCHOOLS, ETC.

6. BELIEVE THAT PROGRAM SHOULD ALLOW FLEXIBILITY IN AWARD OF GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS. ECONOMICS OF LATTER ARE ABVIOUS, BUT POOL OF QUALIFIED CANDIDATES IN YEMEN IS TINY. THERE ARE ONLY 600 COLLEGE GRADUATES IN ALL OF YEMEN AND NOT ALL ARE GOOD STUDENTS (ESPECIALLY IF THEY WENT TO EAST BLOC SCHOOLS). SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE MUCH MORE NUMEROUS, BY CONTRAST, AND INCREASING AT MUCH MORE RAPID PACE THAN COLLEGE GRADUATES, AND SO DESPITE LIMITATIONS IN YEMENI SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WE ARE MUCH MORE CONFIDENT OF ABILITY LOCATE HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND WELL MOTIVATED STUDENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE WORK. NEVERTHELESS, AS NOTED EARLIER, BELIEVE PROGRAM SHOULD ALLOW TRUSTEES FLEXIBILITY TO PROVIDE SOME HELP FOR GRADUATE AS WELL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SANA 00839 011303Z

AS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

7. IN YOUR PRESENTATION, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT FROM BEGINNING THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN CONCEIVED OF AS EFFORT TO PROVIDE ELITE RPT ELITE GROUP OF STUDENTS WITH FIRST CLASS EDUCATION. ONLY STUDENTS WITH HIGHEST MARKS, SIGNS OF LEADERSHIP, WOULD BE ACCEPTED. IT WOULD BE COMPARABLE TO RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS IN THIS REGARD, AND WE THINK THIS FUND SHOULD PROUDLY BEAR NAME OF SHAYKH ZAYID SCHOLARSHIPS.

8. FINALLY, AID/W HAS INDICATED BY CABLE WILLINGNESS TO HELP WITH PLACEMENT, COUNSELING AND (IN SANA) SELECTION, ORIENTATION AND ENGLISH TEACHING. (FOR AID/W: USG CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL COST OF PROGRAM IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE AS CATALYST OF APPROVAL AND WAY TO INVOLVE US HERE IN SELECTION).

9. COMMENT: IT TOOK CONSIDERABLE EFFORT HERE TO GET YEMENI TO MAKE THIS REQUEST BUT GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY BEHIND IT NOW. THAT'S VERY GOOD. REALIZE AT SAME TIME THAT IT WILL BE HARD AT THIS LATE DATE TO PLANT SEEDS WITH SHAYKH ZAYID BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL IN SANA. AT SAME TIME, NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO OUR EFFORTS IN YEMEN (OR TO YAR DEVELOPMENT) THAN MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH IN FUNDS FOR US EDUCATION. MANY, MANY THANKS.

SCOTES

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